

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 03212 141128Z

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ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 AID-05 ITF-05 SCA-01

VO-03 INSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 H-02 SS-15

NSC-05 /068 W

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R 141031Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4588

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 3212

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CVIS, VS, US, CB

SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: AMMAN 3083

1. THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FROM BEIRUT OF THE UNHCR ARRIVED IN AMMAN MAY 12 ON TWO-DAY VISIT AND, ALONG WITH DEPUTY RESREP UNDP, IS TAKING ACTIVE INTEREST IN PLIGHT OF CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. ON MAY 13 UNHCR REP HELD A MEETING IN AMMAN WITH LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION, CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES AND THE NEAR EAST COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (NECC, LOCAL OFFICE OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES), TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF THE VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN REFUGEES PRESENTLY IN JORDAN. AN EMBOFF SAT IN ON MEETING TO KEEP ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS AND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON THE U.S. POSITION CONCERNING REFUGEES FROM THESE COUNTRIES IN THRID COUNTRIES.

2. THE UNHCR REP HAD PREVIOUSLY MET WITH THE CAMBODIANS AND VIETNAMESE AND URGED THEM TO MAKE APPLICATIONS FOR ASYLUM TO SEVERAL COUNTRIES WHICH THEY ARE DOING (INCLUDING U.S., CANADA, UK, FRANCE, FRG, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 AMMAN 03212 141128Z

BELGIUM AND SWITZERLAND). THE MEETING TODAY WAS PRIMARILY

DESIGNED TO FIND AN ORGANIZATION TO ADMINISTER
SUBSISTENCE FUNDS TO THE REFUGEES IF NEEDED AND MORE
IMPORTANTLY TO HANDLE PROCESSING AND ADMINISTRATIVE
DETAILS WHEN AND IF A HOST COUNTRY IS FOUND. ALTHOUGH
THE CURRENT NUMBER IS NOT LARGE (SEVEN VIETNAMESE AND
19 CAMBODIANS) THE UNHCR DOES NOT HAVE THE STAFF
IN JORDAN FOR THIS TYPE WORK.

3. THE LOCAL OFFICE OF THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION
OFFERED TO HANDLE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM IMMEDIATE
SUBSISTENCE NEEDS BUT DOES NOT HAVE THE STAFF TO HANDLE
THE LARGER PROBLEM OF PROCESSING THE REFUGEES ONCE A
HOST COUNTRY HAS BEEN FOUND. THE N.E.C.C. REPRESENTA-
TIVE AGREED TO REQUEST HIS HEAD OFFICE FOR PERMISSION
TO TAKE ON THIS TASK. CURRENTLY THE N.E.C.C. MANDATE
IS RESTRICTED TO PALESTINIANS ONLY.

4. ALTHOUGH THE UNHCR REP COULD NOT OFFER MUCH OPTIMISM
FOR FINDING A HOST COUNTRY IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE,
THE VOLAGS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE FATE OF THESE
REFUGEES AND WILLING TO HELP TO THE EXTENT THEIR
FACILITIES COULD COPE WITH THE TASK. THE EMBASSY WILL
BE KEPT BRIEFED ON DEVELOPMENTS FROM THE VOLAGS AND
THE UNHCR.

5. CAMBODIAN AMBASSADOR HAD JUST PRIOR TO UNHCR VISIT
REQUESTED USG FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE 19 CAMBODIANS
HERE WHO ARE GRADUALLY RUNNING OUT OF MONEY, AND WHOSE
FUNDS HE ESTIMATES WILL BE EXHAUSTED BY END OF MAY.
WE PREFER TO SEE WHAT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FROM VOLAGS
AND ALSO LOOK AT MORE DETAILED ACCOUNTING OF CAMBODIAN
NEEDS PRIOR TO MAKING ANY RECOMMENDATION FOR USG
ASSISTANCE.

6. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF FACT THAT THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE
PROSPECT (ON BASIS OF ORAL STATEMENT UNHCR REP) FOR THESE
REFUGEES, WE BELIEVE TIME IS FAST APPROACHING WHEN,
THROUGH LACK OF FUNDS AND BECAUSE GOJ WILL NOT PROVIDE
PERMANENT REFUGE, US WILL HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION. WE
EXPECT IN NEAR FUTURE TO HAVE CONFIRMATION THAT THERE
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PAGE 03 AMMAN 03212 141128Z

ARE NO IMMEDIATE PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE, AT
WHICH TIME WE INTEND AGAIN TO REPEAT OUR RECOMMENDATION
THAT THEY BE PAROLED INTO U.S. END COMMENT.
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